

REMARKS

Claim 1-16 were originally filed. In the Office Action mailed August 30, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 15, 16 as being anticipated and rejected claims 13 and 14 as being obvious over Stillman US Patent No. 5,551,066 ("Stillman").

The Examiner also provisionally rejected claims 4, 7 and 15 for obviousness-type double patenting, rejected claims 6 and 14-16 for indefiniteness and objected to claim 16 for having multiple sentences.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-16 to obviate the rejections and objections and has added claims 17-35.

Claims 17-35 more clearly express Applicant's invention in terms of a multiphase protocol for determining a central coordinator node for a communication network, wherein discrete listening, discovery, election and confirm phases, each involving specialized tasks, are performed sequentially to enable judicious selection of a central coordinator node.

Applicant submits that Stillman does not fairly teach or suggest what is recited in the new claims. Stillman discusses a method for designating a master link controller that dictates to other link controllers a frequency to be used in a wireless network. While Stillman indicates that the link controllers can apply shared state information and rules to independently decide upon a common master, there is no teaching or suggestion in Stillman to employ the multiphase protocol reflected in the added claims to determine the master. For example, rather than dedicating a phase to discovery of the topology of the network, Stillman instructs to have its link controllers share state information as part of data transfer operations by including such information in headers appended to

data packets transmitted between link controllers. [See e.g. FIG. 9 and col. 22, lines 10-36]. Stillman does not fairly teach or suggest conducting a discovery phase wherein the first node transmits its node identity and receives from other nodes node identities of other nodes that have transmitted their node identities; then conducting an election phase wherein the first node transmits a list of discovered node identities received by the first node from other nodes during the discovery phase, receives from other nodes lists of discovered node identities received by other nodes during the discovery phase and generates topological data based at least in part on information in the transmitted and received lists; and then conducting a confirm phase after the election phase wherein the first node selectively transmits an indication that the first node is the central coordinator node based at least in part on analysis of the topological data. Moreover, there is no teaching in Stillman to invoke timers to effect transitions between discovery, election and confirm phases. Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Stillman to use discover, elect and confirm phase type messages to communicate information during discovery, election and confirm phases, respectively. Additionally, Stillman does not address a central coordinator node that schedules access to a communication network in an operate phase that follows a confirm phase.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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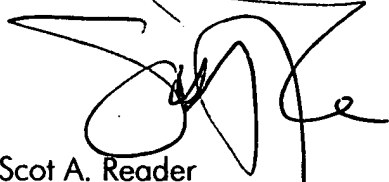
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Appl. No. 10/775,967
Amendment Dated December 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed August 30, 2007

Should any question remain in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Reader', written over a horizontal line.

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